

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30-32 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 12-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30 are amended, and claims 31 and 32 are canceled. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30 are now pending in the application. The Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In the Office Action dated October 28, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, 30, and 31. The Examiner objected to claim 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 32. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 32 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicants submit that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 2-9 and 11 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Support for the amendments to claims 12, 22, 28, and 30 is found, for example, in previously pending claim 32. The Applicants submit that claims 12, 22, 28, and 30 are allowable for at least some of the same reasons as previously pending claim 32. Since claims 13-17, 19, 20, 23-26 depend directly or indirectly from claims 12 or 22, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

The present amendments are being made for the sake of expediency, in order to accelerate the issuance of a patent, and for other sound business reasons. The Applicants reserve the right to further prosecute the previously pending claims in their original or previously pending forms in a continuing application.

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons discussed, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 28, and 30 under Section 103(a) have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants believe that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

### **Fees**

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR

1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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